

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A schedule information system comprising:

schedule data storage means in which users' schedule data are stored;
 information service means for providing users with information; and
 related service search means that searches information service means

5 that relate to schedule data stored in the schedule data storage means;

wherein the related service search means includes means which, in
 response to user instructions to search related services or to consult schedule
 data, acquires information from information service means that relate to
 schedule data, and outputs this information to the user.

- 10 2. A schedule information system according to Claim 1, comprising
 information service data storage means in which information summarizing the
 information service means is stored; wherein

the aforementioned related service search means includes means that
 5 searches the information service data storage means in response to user
 instructions or control; and is also provided with means for outputting to the
 user, along with the aforementioned schedule data, information from the
 information service means that have been searched by the related service
 search means.

- 10 3. A schedule information system according to Claim 2, wherein the
 aforementioned information service data storage means includes means for:

storing information relating to the access address and access procedure
 for the information service means; and for

5 connecting to the information service means on the basis of the
 aforementioned access address and procedure information that have been

retrieved by the related service search means.

4. A schedule information system according to Claim 3, which includes means for receiving schedule data related information from an information service means to which a connection has been established, and for outputting the received information along with the aforementioned schedule data.

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5. A schedule information system according to Claim 4, which includes billing information storage means for receiving billing information from a connected information service means and for storing billing information for each user.

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6. A schedule information system according to any of Claims 2 to 5, which comprises personal information storage means for storing personal information relating to users;

wherein the aforementioned related service search means includes means for using this personal information along with the schedule data to search the information service data storage means.

7. A schedule information system according to Claim 6, which includes user preferences extraction means for extracting information inferred — on the basis of schedule data input by a user or information relating to information service means provided by a user — to be of interest to the user, and for using the extracted information as part of the aforementioned personal information.

8. A schedule information system according to Claim 6 or 7, which includes means for acquiring information relating to the aforementioned personal information by connecting to an information service means found by

the related service search means on the basis of the personal information stored
 5 in the personal information storage means, and for storing this acquired
 information in the aforementioned user schedule data storage means as part of
 the schedule data of the user in question.

9. A schedule information system according to Claim 2, wherein the
 aforementioned information service data storage means is provided with
 information service data registration means whereby the user can register
 information from an information service means.

5 10. A schedule information system according to Claim 6, which is provided
 with information service data acquisition means for searching, on the basis of
 the personal information stored in the personal information storage means,
 information service means that are in conformity with this personal
 5 information; and for storing, in the information service data storage means,
 information from the searched information service means.

11. A schedule information system according to Claim 2, which comprises:
 means which, when there is information to be registered as schedule
 data with the schedule data storage means, requests transmission of the
 schedule data to the schedule data storage means; and

5 data transmit/receive means for receiving this schedule data, retrieving
 information congruent with the received schedule data, and transmitting the
 acquired information.

12. A schedule information system according to Claim 1, which comprises:
 display means for presenting the user with information acquired from
 an information service means;

animated character image generation means for generating animated
 5 character images for displaying on this display means; and

means for displaying the animated character images along with the
 aforementioned acquired information.

13. A schedule information system according to Claim 12, which comprises
 means for selecting a display scenario that is appropriate for the schedule data;
 and means which, in accordance with the movement pattern obtained by this
 display scenario selection means, displays the aforementioned animated
 5 character images and outputs what the character says.

14. A schedule information system according to Claim 2, wherein:
 client terminals are connected to a server via a network; and
 the aforementioned server contains the aforementioned schedule data
 storage means, related service search means, information service data storage
 5 means, and means for outputting to users information acquired from the
 information service means.

15. A schedule information system according to Claim 14, wherein the
 information service data storage means contains Internet location information
 as the address information for accessing the information service means.

16. A schedule information system according to Claim 2, wherein the
 schedule information system is a terminal connectable to an information
 service means via a network; and

this terminal includes the aforementioned schedule data storage means,
 5 related service search means, information service data storage means, and
 means for outputting to a user information acquired from an information

service means.

17. A schedule information system according to Claim 16, wherein the information service data storage means contains Internet location information as the address information for accessing the information service means.

18. A storage medium in which software has been stored, this software functioning as a schedule information system according to any of Claims 1 to 17, when installed in an information processing unit.